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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## INFORMATION REPORT

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Partisans

1. Partisans in the Latvian SSR consist mostly of the following elements:
  - a. Those who could not accept Communist ideology;
  - b. Those declared to be kulaks during the Soviet drive for collectivization;
  - c. Those who escaped imminent arrest and deportation;
  - d. Those who knew that they would be deported;
  - e. Those who feared that they might be deported;
  - f. Ex-members of the Latvian SS Legion;
  - g. Fugitives from justice and deserters.
2. From 1946 to 1948, partisans were actively engaged in anti-Communist operations, killing local Communist functionaries and looting the Soviet-established "co-operatives". These activities resulted in reprisals from the Soviet authorities. In districts where partisans had been active, innocent farmers were arrested and disappeared. When, for example, a deputy minister on a tour of inspection in the Lubana (56-54N, 26-43E) district was shot in 1948, inhabitants were immediately deported in large numbers from that locality. There have also been rumors that two or three MVD men were shot by partisans in February 1950. In general, all this did more harm than good to the national cause.
3. Lately, partisans have greatly moderated their activities. This fact may, in some measure, be a result of directives issued by some passive resistance group, urging the conservation of the living strength of the nation. However, the partisans still give evidence of their existence, not by killing but by occasionally beating a local Communist to within an inch of his life. A co-operative store is also occasionally looted, though this might be the work of bandits. Even today, Communist functionaries are afraid to travel through the forests of the provinces of Kurzeme (northwestern Latvia) or Latgale (southeastern Latvia) even by fast automobile.
4. Some partisans are known to be located in the forests of northeastern and eastern Latvia. It is believed that there are others in some districts

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of Kurzeme and in Latgale. No estimate can be made, however, of the total number of partisans in Latvia.

5. Partisans do not readily accept new members into their ranks. It is possible to join only after a full personal introduction from someone known to them for years.
6. MVD units are being employed to hunt down the partisans, and they are believed to have been fairly successful. From 1946 to 1948 trucks carrying partisans under arrest, on their way to "special areas", were frequently to be seen in various parts of Latvia. The subsequent fate of the partisans is unknown.
7. The partisans are known to be short mostly of:
  - a. Weapons, ammunition, and explosives;
  - b. Medical supplies and clothing;
  - c. Food.

As long as individual farmhouses exist, even though they may belong to collective farms, partisans are able to procure supplies of food.

Passive Resistance

8. Since the middle of 1949, the passive resistance groups in Latvia (of which there are known to be more than one) have limited their activities to giving directives on policy to the partisans with whom they are connected, to helping persons who have to hide from the Soviets, and to keeping an eye on persons whom they consider of value for the future. Members of the passive resistance observe very strict secrecy amongst themselves and keep their group units small. Since every member knows only one other member, or at the most two, the strength of the whole group is not known to any member of the rank and file. Furthermore, a group's activities are not known to all its members, since each member is given his individual task without being told the reason for it. For security reasons, the separate passive resistance groups are not connected with each other, or are connected only by a very remote contact.
9. Members of the passive resistance movement look upon the partisans as their fighting force of the future. They direct them, therefore, to conserve their strength by abstaining from acts of terrorism, thereby giving no cause for reprisals. As far as they can, they supply them with clothing, medicines, and funds, for which they avail themselves of contacts on the black market. In addition, the passive resistance groups have managed to legalize the position of a number of partisans by providing them with fresh documents or by finding them jobs in districts where they are not known.
10. The passive resistance groups do not issue any newspapers and avoid all possible publicity. Their aim is to have a small but reliable nucleus of men to take over the leadership of the nation when the time comes.

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